



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

July 15, 2011

Honorable Representative Thomas R. Tillis  
Honorable Senator Philip Edward Berger  
Co-Chairs, Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations  
North Carolina General Assembly  
Legislative Building  
16 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Subject: Designation of NC 540 for use by Trucks with Twin Trailers

Dear Gentlemen:

It is our recommendation to designate NC 540 (counterclockwise) between I-40 and US 64/264 in Durham, Johnston and Wake Counties as a twin trailer route. These additions to the North Carolina Truck Network were initiated internally by NCDOT's Transportation Mobility and Safety Division. In accordance with designation procedures outlined in General Statute §20-115.1, we have completed the following requirements:

- A determination of public convenience and need (§20-115.1, g, 1)
- A traffic engineering study indicating the subject route can safely accommodate and has sufficient capacity to handle these vehicle combinations (§20-115.1, g, 2)
- The opportunity for a public hearing has been provided in each county through which the subject route passes (§20-115.1, g, 3)

There was one citizen in attendance of the public hearing, and several comments were received prior to the public hearing. The one specific concern raised was related to noise, which is covered by other general statutes and is not specific to this proposed designation.

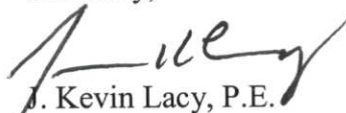
This route was planned as an interstate and would have been, by default, available to twin trailers. The Turnpike Authority decided this route would be a NC route rather than an interstate; as such the route was designed to high design (interstate) standards and can accommodate the proposed truck combinations. Also, there are no truck crash issues along the existing portion of the route.

There was also some confusion that NC 540 would only allow commuter/passenger vehicles, but all trucks up to and including those with 53-foot trailers are allowed on all primary routes by general statute (20-115.1).

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Please contact me at (919) 773-2800 if you have any questions or need additional details including the specific findings of our investigation.

Sincerely,

  
J. Kevin Lacy, P.E.  
State Traffic Engineer

JKL/lna

cc: Eugene A. Conti, Jr., Secretary of Transportation  
Terry R. Gibson, P.E., State Highway Administrator  
Beau Memory, Legislative Liaison